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ON THE NATURE, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF INCIPIENT
PHTHISIS.

[Concluded from page 453.]

SEDATIVES.—The employment of sedatives, however valuable as a palliative measure in the more advanced stages of the malady, I have seldom found to be of much service in the very commencement of the disease, save in diminishing the irritation of the cough, and occasionally in procuring rest. The hydrocyanic acid does not appear to have sustained the reputation in the treatment of phthisis which its advocates at first raised in its favor: nevertheless, in combination with morphia or conium, it is sometimes exceedingly useful in quieting the paroxysmal cough, which often, even at the commencement of the disease, proves so harassing and wearing to the sufferer. Hyoscyamus, in the form of tincture, is a valuable addition to the mixture of iodide of potassium and soda, before alluded to.

Digitalis may be advantageously prescribed in those cases of phthisis co-existing with cardiac affection, and especially if the habit be phlegmatic. The effects, however, of this remedy must be carefully watched, since by deranging the gastric and alvine functions, and permanently reducing the force of the circulation, the constitution will be thereby injured, and the disposition to deposit tuberculous matter in consequence increased. Perhaps, on the whole, the salts of morphia, commencing with very small doses, may be esteemed the most useful. In the inflammatory complications of the complaint, the tartrate of antimony, in combination with a sedative, will operate beneficially; but, from its liability to disorder the stomach and bowels, its use should be discontinued immediately after the inflammatory symptoms have been subdued.

Mercury.—The exhibition of mercury in phthisis, save as an alterative, or in combination as a mild aperient, has been considered by the greater number of authors as decidedly injurious. More recently, however, the attention of the profession has been ably directed to the subject by Sir Henry Marsh, Dr. Graves and Dr. William Stokes, of Dublin; and still more lately, in an interesting paper on the treatment of incipient phthisis by mercury, by Dr. Munk, published in the Medical Gazette for October, 1840.

From the high talent and undoubted testimony of the authors above mentioned, and from the numerous well-marked cases which they have detailed, little question can exist but that in some cases of incipient consumption the production of pyalism is attended with the happiest result; in reference to the adoption of this treatment, however, the precaution of Dr. Stokes should never be lost sight of, viz.: "that the remedy is a two-edged sword, and its exhibition must not be lightly attempted."

The form of the disease best adapted for the mercurial treatment is that in which the symptoms present more or less of an inflammatory character. In these cases, by the judicious use of mercury, the irritation of the pulmonary mucous membrane and parenchyma may be removed, the deposition of tuberculous matter probably arrested; and thus, by the suspension of local action, time is gained for the adoption of other remedies, and the improvement of the general health.

In my own practice I have tried the mercurial treatment of incipient phthisis in a very limited number of cases; where I have done so, however, the result has been more or less favorable.

Inhalation.—Of the utility of inhalation as a remedy in the early stage of consumption, I have at present had very little experience. Like the majority of curative measures, it has its advocates and its opponents; and on weighing the testimony of each, it is extremely probable that by judicious management, where there exists but little disposition to inflammatory action, it will prove a useful adjunct to the therapeutics of pulmonary disorders.

Sir Charles Scudamore strongly recommends a mixture of iodine with conium, inhaled from a glass apparatus with large tubes, by which treatment, combined with general measures, he reports that he has effected several cures. Dr. Corrigan prefers impregnating the air of the patient's room with iodine. Perhaps the most ingenious and economical method of introducing this substance into the system by inhalation, is that proposed by Dr. Leigh, of Jersey, who directs the patient to apply a sufficient quantity of iodine ointment on the ribs, under both axillæ, and then, by covering the head with the bed-clothes, to inhale the iodine that is volatilized by the heat of the patient's body. This practice may be advantageously adopted in hospitals, and as the ointment produces counter-irritation, I would suggest its simultaneous application below the clavicles.

Tonics.—After the removal of local, especially gastric, irritation, and the more prominent symptoms caused by the presence of tubercles, the free exhibition of tonic remedies (with a view to improve the general health, by altering the condition of the fluids and solids of the body, upon the depraved state of which the secretion of tuberculous matter undoubtedly in a great measure depends) may be most advantageously had recourse to; of these, iodine, the preparations of iron and zinc, the sulphate of quinine, and the mineral acids, are to be preferred. The sulphates of iron and quinine, with an excess of acid, I have repeatedly found, in conjunction with the exhibition of emetics, to act most favorably in this disease; indeed, the salts of iron, by improving the condition of the

blood, have, and still most deservedly enjoy, a high reputation in the treatment of the early stages of pulmonary consumption.

Among the best tonics in incipient phthisis may be included—early hours, both in reference to rising and going to bed; at the same time carefully avoiding excitement of any kind that may at all interfere with a quiet and unbroken slumber; a diet at once nutritious, unstimulating, and easy of digestion. Thus, for breakfast, I would recommend a lightly-boiled egg, with dry buttered toast, or bread a day old, and tea or cocoa, with a large proportion of milk; coffee, with an equal quantity of milk, may be taken if it agree, but in general I have found it too stimulating. For dinner (which should be an early hour, viz., 1 or 2), meat, principally mutton, beef and game; veal, pork and salted meats are objectionable; fried fish and salmon must be rejected from the dietary of the phthisical patient; boiled sole, whiting and haddock, however, are nutritious and digestible, and may therefore be allowed; a moderate proportion of well-dressed vegetables may be taken with the meat, with a small quantity of mild home-brewed beer; this is far preferable to porter or wine, which are too stimulating. The tea and supper should be combined, and consist principally of milk, or thin arrow-root, with toast or bread and butter; the last meal ought to be taken at least one hour before bed-time. In addition to the above, I would strongly recommend a tumbler of asses' milk to be taken twice a day, viz., on rising in the morning, and again immediately before retiring to rest.

Another admirable tonic is a residence where the air is mild and dry, to the invigorating influence of which the patient should expose himself as much as possible, carefully avoiding easterly and northerly winds. He should live much in the open air, taking gentle exercise, the best of which by far, when attainable, is that derived from horse exercise. Sailing on the sea, when moderately agitated, if it do not excite too great nausea, is another valuable remedy in the early stage of the complaint; and, at this period, seldom fails in affording marked relief; cruising round the coast, at repeated short intervals, by avoiding the inevitable ennui consequent on a protracted sea expedition, is preferable. Travelling (provided the circumstances of the patient admit of the comforts of home, combined with the strictest regard to the improvement of the general health), by varying the air and scene, and at the same time tranquillizing the mind, proves, in many cases, a valuable auxiliary to the tonic treatment.

The shower-bath, if possible, should never be neglected by those in whom there exists the slightest predisposition to the tuberculous habit. It is astonishing the amount of benefit derived from this remedy as a tonic; it enables the invalid to bear with impunity the vicissitudes of climate, braces the system, gives tone to the digestive organs, and, by diminishing the susceptibility to the impression of cold, prevents, in many cases, the first assumption of the disease. It should be taken every morning throughout the year on rising, and its use followed by brisk friction with the coarsest towels. If, in delicate individuals, the shock of the bath cannot be borne, or re-action does not immediately follow, rapid sponging of the entire surface of the body, succeeded by friction, must be substituted. In

commencing either practice, it will be advisable to use the water slightly warm; the temperature, however, must be daily reduced until it becomes cold, at which point it must be steadily kept and persevered in. Flannel ought always to be worn next the skin; and, during the winter months, I would strongly advise a chamois leather waistcoat being worn over thin flannel during the day, by all those who, from whatever cause, are more or less prone to the disease.

Having brought to a conclusion the consideration of those remedies which have proved, both in my practice as well as in that of others, of unquestionable benefit in the treatment of the early stage of pulmonary phthisis, it now only remains for me, in a few words, to notice the especial treatment of those forms in which the disease commonly obtains at its commencement, more particularly in reference to its complication with inflammation and hæmorrhage.

When bronchitis or pneumonia co-exist with tuberculous deposit, the proper remedies will be depletion, saline aperients, antimony, low diet, and the cautious exhibition of mercury to the extent of *slightly* affecting the system. Having, by one or more of these measures, subdued the inflammatory condition, the period then arrives for emetics, counter-irritation, and mild tonics; at the same time, by way of precaution, frequently repeating the topical bleeding by leeches below the clavicles.

When hæmoptysis is a prominent symptom in the early stage of phthisis, small and repeated general bloodlettings are advisable; saline aperients; nauseating doses of antimony or ipecacuanha; the mineral acids, with opium; the acetate of lead, with opium and acetic acid; or creosote, with opium; or lastly, in the event of all these remedies failing to arrest the bleeding, we may try what is now believed to be the active ingredient of Ruspini's styptic, viz., gallic acid, in doses of half a grain three or four times a day.

Having, by the above practice, succeeded in stopping the bleeding, we may then, with advantage, commence the exhibition of emetics; the application of blisters to the chest; the use of tonics, especially iron and the mineral acids; with the other general measures already fully detailed.

If the disease be uncomplicated either by hæmoptysis or inflammation, which in the majority of instances is the case, we should at once commence the practice of emetics, counter-irritation and iodine, with strict attention to the rules for diet and regimen above prescribed.

To ensure the beneficial effects of the foregoing treatment, it must be commenced *early, boldly, and continued perseveringly*; and although, in so fatal an affection as phthisis pulmonalis, and one the tendency of which to a progressive and fatal termination is so great, many cases will inevitably occur in which apparently little benefit is derived from any mode of treatment; yet, on the other hand, I do conscientiously affirm, that by the timely and judicious exhibition of remedies, the disease, if not cured, may often be indefinitely suspended; and the lives of hundreds, in whom it now too frequently runs unchecked to its close, may be long preserved in a state of happiness and comfort.—*London Medical Gazette.*

ANEURISM CURED BY PRESSURE.

By Edward Hutton, M.D., Surgeon to the Richmond Hospital.

MICHAEL DUNCAN, æt. 30, a laborer, of rather healthy appearance, but of intemperate habits, was admitted into the Richmond Hospital on the 3d of October, 1842. He stated, that ten days previously, while suffering from cramp in the right leg, to which he had been subject for the last year, he, for the first time, discovered a tumor in his right ham, which was then equal in size to a hen's egg; in three days afterwards he observed some swelling in the foot and ankle, and felt pain along the outside of the leg. At the time of his admission into the Hospital the tumor had somewhat increased in size, and was found to occupy the lower part of the popliteal space. It pulsated strongly, and when the femoral artery was compressed in the groin the tumor admitted of considerable collapse. The compression being removed, it again became extended, and the "purring thrill" attended the re-entrance of the blood into the aneurismal sac. The leg was somewhat swollen, and its veins turgid, and he complained of prickling sensations in the limb. His pulse was 60 and regular, and his general health appeared unaffected. The nature of his case was explained to him, and the operation of tying the femoral artery proposed. To this he declined to submit in the first instance, and expressed a desire that other means might be tried. For three or four weeks he maintained the horizontal posture, and a compress and bandage was applied; but as the tumor gradually increased in size, and as he suffered pain from the pressure, this treatment was discontinued.

November 1st.—The patient being still reluctant to undergo the operation, I resolved to try compression of the femoral artery, and I entertained some hope of success from being informed by Mr. Adams that the late Mr. Todd had succeeded in a similar case, of which no account has been published. Having at hand an instrument constructed for the suppression of secondary hæmorrhage after ligature of the femoral artery, I applied it in this case. It was so contrived as to admit of pressure being made by a screw and pad upon the course of the femoral artery, and the counter pressure upon the opposite surface of the limb without interfering with the collateral circulation.

In the first instance the compression was made upon the femoral artery in the middle third of the thigh, and although it was effectual in compressing this vessel it produced so much uneasiness that it could not be sustained, and after a few applications the apparatus was removed and adapted to the upper part of the limb.

12th.—The femoral artery was compressed as it passes from the pelvis under Poupart's ligament, and the pressure maintained for more than four hours.

14th.—The tumor feels rather more solid; the purring thrill, before felt on the re-entrance of the blood into the sac, is no longer sensible; the pulsation as before.

18th.—No change in the tumor.

19th.—The circumference of the limb at the seat of the tumor is a quarter of an inch less than at the last measurement.

22d.—Duration of compression three hours ; the pulsation returned after its removal.

24th.—Artery compressed six hours ; same result.

25th.—He was unable to bear the application from soreness in the groin ; he complained also of some pain in the tumor.

26th.—The compression was resumed, and continued for four hours ; when the instrument was removed, the pulsation had ceased in the tumor, which felt solid, and was free from pain.

27th.—The pulsation had, in a slight degree, returned ; compression applied for six hours.

28th.—No pulsation was now felt in the tumor. It had decreased in size, and was solid.

29th.—The compression was maintained six hours ; no pulsation can be felt ; compression applied for three hours.

December 1st.—An artery, about the size of the temporal, is felt pulsating along the course of the tumor, which is quite solid, much diminished in size, and is altogether free from pulsation. The use of the instrument was now discontinued. The femoral artery pulsates naturally.

On the 7th of December the temperature of the legs was examined at the calf.

Temperature of the aneurismal limb, 86 deg. Fahrenheit ; of sound limb, 30 deg.

			Aneurismal.	Sound Limb.
December 12th.—Temperature			88 deg.	90 deg.
"	20th	"	90 "	91 "
"	21st	"	91 "	91 "

On the 27th of December the tumor was reduced to the size of a small walnut, and felt very hard. He was this day discharged at his own request.

In six weeks he visited the Hospital at my request. The tumor was about the size of a nutmeg, and solid. He had been at his usual employment.

Remarks.—Since this case occurred, Dr. Cusack has treated with success, by similar means, a case of popliteal aneurism in Dr. Stevens's Hospital, and Dr. Bellingham another in St. Vincent's Hospital. It would appear that this plan of treatment has been too hastily abandoned by the profession, probably from the compression employed being so excessive as to render it quite insupportable to the patient. The least possible pressure which may be sufficient to close the vessel should be used, and when this cannot be sustained, it will prove of use to partially compress the artery, so as to lessen the impulse of the circulation. In cases where the aneurismal diathesis exists, this treatment would seem to be demanded before recourse should be had to an operation.—*Dub. Jour. Med. Sciences.*

REVIEW.

"*An Epitome of Homœopathic Practice, compiled chiefly from Jahr, Ruckert, Beauvais, &c.*" By J. T. CURTIS, M.D., and J. LILLIE, M.D.

THIS is a small work, on a small science, by a pair of small writers. The science, displayed in its pages, can be characterized by no other word than that so often used by the founder of the system—*infinitesimal*; and were we disposed to show with how small an amount of brains this world of bipeds may be doctored, as well as "governed," we should doubtless point to the authors of this "Manual" in illustration of our meaning.

The preface is taken up with showing that no dependence whatever can be placed upon Jahr's "*New Manual of Homœopathic Medicine*," as translated—a fact which was pretty well understood already; but its worthlessness is not occasioned by the errors of the translator, but owing to the circumstance that it is a pure work of fiction; it not even possessing the merit, which many such works have, namely, that of being *founded on fact*. In proof of our assertion, we need only refer to the articles "*Actea*," p. 23, with its six closely-printed pages of symptoms; "*Aquilegia*," p. 61, with its three pages of symptoms; "*Chenopodium*," p. 140, with its five pages; and "*Nigella*," p. 253, with its five pages, also, of all the symptoms and combinations of symptoms, which the imagination could possibly conceive, with many others; for who could have believed that Jahr himself allows that the symptoms under these and many other articles, have all been "*forged*." In his preface to his "*New Homœopathic Pharmacopœia and Posology*," translated by Dr. Kitchin, of Philadelphia (page 14), Jahr remarks, "we have not hesitated to give admission to the medicines of which Dr. Fickel (Heyne, Hoffbaner, &c.) has published the *IMAGINARY OR FORGED PATHOGENETIC EFFECTS*; for *how ridiculous soever* it might have been to admit them into the *materia medica*," &c. After enumerating nine different articles, and some of them those on which the homœopathic prescribers have hitherto chiefly relied, he adds, "all that has been published on these substances, in the French homœopathic journals, should be totally rejected, since they are but the translations of erroneous publications, as above mentioned." This precious confession furnishes a clue to one of the mysteries connected with this occult art. Many persons have wondered *how it was* that so many thousands of the most violent symptoms could be produced by some of the most inert substances, many of which are not known to produce any effects whatever, in *any* appreciable dose; why, for example, simple *carbonate of lime* could produce six pages of symptoms—*charcoal* as many more—*sponge*, *silex* and *sulphur*, each, as many more, &c.; the secret, however, is now revealed—these German transcendentalists have been amusing themselves by drawing up *imaginary systems of materia medica*, and fools or knaves enough have been found, who were willing to take their systems upon trust, without so much as putting a single article to the test of actual trial, on a person in a state of health; although a mite of common sense would have shown these gentry that there was not, and could not be, a single well-established fact in the whole farrago

of stuff, so pompously published forth as systems of homœopathic materia medica. The practitioners of this school have again and again been challenged to produce upon the healthy, any *one* of the thousand symptoms laid down in their books; but have they accepted the challenge? Not they—and nothing would they deprecate so much as such a test. Take, for example, “carbo-vegetabilis,” or vegetable charcoal. Now, there is not any variety of pain, anguish and suffering, whether bodily or mental, which is not laid down by Jahr (p. 127) as produced by this inert substance; and its effects, moreover, he states, last “about forty days”! Among these symptoms, are “rheumatic drawing and tearing in the limbs,” “wrenching pain in the limbs,” “burning pains in the limbs and bones,” “influenza,” “cholera,” “palsy,” “lameness,” “great weakness in the joints,” “nettlerash,” “scabies,” “chilblains,” “stinking ulcers,” “toothache,” “headache,” “pain in the eyes,” “sore throat,” “earache,” “pain in the nose,” “pain in the stomach,” &c. In short, every organ and every part of the system is affected in every possible manner by infinitesimal doses of charcoal, and the language is absolutely tortured to express the varieties of suffering and pain to which they are subjected. The same remark will apply to *sulphur*, *sponge*, *silex*, and in fact to every other article whose effects are pretended to be recorded.

Now we ask Dr. Capen, or even the authors of this silly manual, do you believe these statements? If not, are you justified in placing reliance on anything which you find in these systems of materia medica? If twenty pages of symptoms have been forged, how do you know but that all is of the same character? Drs. Fickell, Heyne and Hoffbaner stand high on the list of homœopathic authors; but if they don't hesitate to “forge,” what dependence is to be placed upon the others? Those who are honestly inquiring after the truth in this matter, we beg leave to refer to a work of Dr. Joerg, of Leipsic, published in 1825, entitled “Materialien zu einer kunptigen, Heilmittellebre durch bersuche,” &c., or, “Materials to serve for a future System of Materia Medica.” Dr. Joerg went through a systematic series of experiments with the leading articles of the materia medica, with the view of ascertaining their effects upon the healthy tissues, upon twenty-seven different individuals, all in good health, and of regular and temperate habits. Each remedy was administered in different doses to different individuals, or at different periods, and the effects produced by a given dose of an article upon each person are separately expressed, great care being observed not to confound the results obtained by the administration of different doses to the same or to different individuals. The results are contained in the work above mentioned. It contains the experiments made by the Society upon the effects of *nitre*, *cherry-laurel water*, *water of bitter almonds*, *valerian*, *serpentaria*, *arnica*, *mustard*, *camphor*, *musk*, *castor*, *St. Ignatius Bean*, *assafetida*, *opium*, *digitalis*, *iodine*, &c. Now, on comparing the results of these experiments, which have universally been received as in the highest degree worthy of confidence, we find that they bear no resemblance whatever to those laid down by Hahnemann, Jahr, and the authors of

this Manual, as produced by the same articles. Those who wish to run out the comparison, may consult the tenth volume of the American Journal of Medical Sciences (p. 150), where a synopsis of Joerg's experiments will be found. No candid person can rise from making such a comparison without a full conviction that the whole homœopathic materia medica, like the portions already acknowledged to be so, have been "forged" after the manner of Heyne, Hoffbaner & Co.

But to return to the work in hand. We should like to be informed on what ground the authors, in compiling this work, have selected some symptoms and rejected others, all of which rested on the same foundation. They cannot plead in defence that they have given those which are most essential, since they insist upon the necessity of "looking at the totality of the symptoms both in the drug and the disease." If this is necessary then the "totality" must be given, and they become false guides to the practitioner.

As to doses, they recommend "the higher forms of the medicines, as these in a majority of cases will be found sufficient. Should such milder preparations prove inadequate, it will be safer to resign the treatment to more experienced hands"!

Under "Lachesis" we find a long catalogue of symptoms. This stands for the poison of the "lance-headed viper" (*trigonocephalus lachesis*), obtained by pressing the small sacs contained in the upper jaw of these reptiles. It seems that we are indebted to Dr. Herring, of Philadelphia, for the introduction of this elegant medicine into use. The fears, however, which we might otherwise entertain of its violent effects, are in a good degree allayed by the following remark of Jahr in his "Posology," p. 222. "The poison of the lance-headed viper, as well as the rattle snake, has this in particular, *that it may be swallowed without inconvenience.*" We therefore look for brilliant achievements with the viper poison.

Reader! dost thou wish to be still more enlightened as to the *pathogenic* effects of various remedies? Take we then common carbonate of magnesia. Messrs. Curtis & Lillie, in the plenitude of their editorial authority, have expurgated much of the romance which we find in Jahr under this article, such as its effects in "producing many and anxious dreams, with talking in sleep," "spasmodic tension in the *middle* finger-joints," &c.; but even yet, for our consolation, we are told that it will produce "somnia, gluing of the eye-lids," "black spots before the eyes," "hardness of hearing," "*dry* coriza! which allows breathing by the mouth only;" "*constipation*!" "fits of *tearing* in the shoulder," and "stiffness of the *nape of the trunk*!" Such are a few of the marvels which we are to believe simple magnesia will produce on a person in health. What, then, can it not do in disease? Why, of course, it will cure these very symptoms, that is, if there is any truth in homœopathy! Carbonate of soda is also a most wonderful drug—it acts on every organ in the body and in every possible way. It produces, we are told, an "insurmountable desire of sleeping by day, with late sleeping at night, and *late waking in the morning*!" "lively dreams," "despondency,"

"disquietude, with fits of anguish," "dislike of society," "hypochondria," "easily frightened," "*weakness of intellect*" (this is doubtless on the *similia similibus* principle—like doctor, like patient). Nutmeg has generally been considered as a very good stomachic and cordial; but how horrified will many be to learn that it will cause "malignant fever with putrid and bloody diarrhœa," "shooting, tearing toothache," "bloating of abdomen," "double tertian fever," "hoarseness and catarrh," &c. By the way, there is another singular circumstance, which we have noticed in running our eyes over this work; there appears to be but very slight correspondence between the *curative* and *pathogenetic* symptoms, which ought, according to homœopathic doctrine, to correspond. That is, the symptoms which any medicine causes, it ought to cure. Now, if we turn to "Sarsaparilla," we find the pathogenetic effects as follows.

Pathogenetic.

"Scabs on face; continual nausea, with unavailing desire to vomit; cold feet."

Curative.

"Gouty pains, with diminution of urine; constipation, with frequent desire of urinating; gravel."

Now we are at a loss to see what correspondence there is between these two sets of symptoms. According to the homœopathic hypothesis, if sarsaparilla causes "scabs on the face," it ought not to cure "gouty pains;" if it causes "nausea," it should not relieve "constipation;" nor is it easy to see how its power of causing "cold feet" acts in the removal of "gravel." Where is the *similia similibus* in all this? The same want of correspondence runs through the whole book. Moreover, if the homœopathic theory be true, we cannot see the necessity of recording two sets of symptoms; for as the medicine must necessarily *cure* those which it will produce, it certainly can only be necessary to state the latter. But unfortunately, we find, on examining, that in nine cases out of ten, the symptoms which the medicine is represented as capable of curing, bear no resemblance to those which it causes!—another fact to prove that the cures are effected by the efforts of nature, and that the medicine has no agency whatever in the matter.

But while poor Sarsaparilla is turned off with four lines, "*Sepia*" claims three and a half pages. We should like to know of a pain or an ache which this article is not said to produce, whether moral or physical. We pity the man, whoever he was, on whom the experiments were made, and these thousands of symptoms wrought out. The torture of the inquisition, the bastinado, the rack, were mere child's play, compared with what this poor devil had to endure. Messrs. Curtis & Lillie do not deign to tell us what doses of cuttle-fish juice sufficed to produce these terrible effects; but Dr. Herring, in his preface to Jahr's "*Manual*," states, that the experiments were made with the "small doses" (i. e., the infinitesimal!). It seems, however, that the patient, who submitted to the trial (was it done in punishment of some State offence, as criminals are sent to the Bohon Upas tree, of Java, or was it done for the pure love of martyrdom?), felt "a burning pain in all parts of the body," "a jerking in his limbs, and twitching in his muscles," "restlessness and

throbbing throughout the body," "hysterical weakness and fainting," "excoriation in his joints," "frightful dreams," "sadness," "anguish," "disgust at life" (no wonder!), "giddiness, with the feeling of a ball in the head," "sick headache," "inability to open the eyes," "drawing and tearing," "head bursting open," "trembling and shocks," "moist scabs," &c. &c. &c., every organ in the body being the seat of the most excruciating anguish, represented by such terms as "cutting," "rending," "drawing," "burning," "tearing," pains, and this through six mortal pages. Whether the man survived, we are not told; but, for our part, if the book is true (and, as Matthews used to say, "What 'll you lay its a lie?"), we believe that to have wrought out the results therein recorded, must have used up more men than the thirty years' war in Germany. Now, we had no idea that this "cuttle-fish juice" was such a concentration of lightning, as it turns out to be. Why, it has generally been supposed by naturalists, that the fish was armed with this inky fluid, for the purpose of ejecting it in the face and eyes of its pursuer, and then escaping in the darkness it has created; but if it causes as many ailments among the finny tribe, as it seems to do in the human family, then we may regard the cuttle-fish as armed with a more formidable weapon of offence and defence, than any other animal in the realm of nature!

Pass we on to "*Silex*"—an article, certainly, we should not, *a priori*, suppose to be very formidable. A glance at Messrs. Curtis & Lillie's four pages of symptoms will dispel this illusion, and these are but a small portion, as usual, of those contained in Jahr. Passing over all the others, we will merely quote some of the symptoms which flint-stone is said to cause in the extremities:—"tearing in arms; paralytic weakness in arms; whitlow; weakness and stiffness in fingers; pressure, tearing and shooting in muscles of thighs; boils on thighs; tearings in knee; cramps in calves; cold feet; swelling of feet; fetid sweat of feet; *ulcer on great toe*"! What a miracle that we escape so many evils, seeing that we all swallow, daily, more or less *silex* in the water which we drink!

Hellebore must be a singular kind of drug, according to our authors, for while it causes "dozing," "silent melancholy," and "deep-colored urine," it *cures* "burying head in the pillow"!—p. 58.

Such is the learned trifling in which men will indulge who have either thrown aside their common sense, or never had any. On looking over Jahr's "New Pharmacopœia and Posology" we find he gives a list of, and describes, three hundred and ten different articles, one hundred and ten of which, he says, "are not yet admitted into treatises on materia medica, though they have been placed in the German Pharmacopœias." The fact is, we suspect, that these one hundred and ten belong to the "imaginary pharmacopœia" manufactured by the celebrated writers of fiction, Messrs. "Heyne, Hoffbaner & Co.," most of which the compilers of the "Epitome" have omitted. They give us only one hundred and three different articles, though Jahr in his "New Manual" gives us two hundred; and, what is remarkable, *all* these, with the exception of two or three, are used in the common practice of medicine. To carry out the humbug, *a la Hoffbaner & Co.*, a list of antidotes is paraded in

the front of the book, for the purpose of "controlling or destroying the effects if the medicine be so powerful as to require interference." But we are told that it is all-important that "the agent employed should hold a strictly homœopathic relation to the case. A *seeming* exception to this rule is indeed to be found in instances where the deleterious agent has been swallowed in doses, *so large* as to require evacuants or chemical re-agents—this practice, in conformity with the generally misapplied, yet sound rule, 'tolle causam,' is never neglected by the RATIONAL physician, but it should be borne in mind that the *dynamic alterations* produced by drugs, almost always require subsequent treatment which should be purely homœopathic"! It is unnecessary to say that the "removal of the cause," constitutes no part of the homœopathic treatment, for Hahnemann has laid down the principle which has been adopted and acted upon by all his disciples, "the physician has nothing more to do than destroy the totality of the symptoms, in order to effect a simultaneous removal of the internal change—that is, to annihilate the disease itself."—(*Organon*.) Messrs. Curtis & Lillie, however, violate this principle when they direct "evacuants or chemical re-agents" in cases where *large* doses of a deleterious agent have been swallowed, for these must, as a matter of course, act upon the principle of "*contraria contrariis*," and not of "*similia similibus*." But we are to consider this, it appears, as a mere "seeming exception," and not a real one; it is all on the principle that *like cures like*! If an *emetic* is given to remove a poison from the stomach, the *hydrated per oxide of iron* as an antidote to *arsenic*, or *chalk* to neutralize some of the *mineral acids*, we are to believe that these are only "*seeming exceptions*" to the rule *similia similibus*, and not real! But if there are instances of the removal of drug diseases on the "*contraria*" principle, as all must admit, then why may not natural diseases be cured in the same manner? But there is no use in attempting to reason this matter with those whose infinitesimal supply of common sense has been swamped in the stagnant fens of "*similia*,"—these men have only room enough in their crania for *one idea* at a time, and as long as this one has a location there, there is no use in undertaking to crowd in others. If our Siamese-twin compilers are not in this predicament, and entirely under the influence of a false theory, they could see, if they have any practice, which we much doubt, that they have to go continually against their rule "*similia*," and yet have not wit enough to perceive it. Passing by poisons and their antidotes, the operation of which is opposed to their rule, how do they act in case of fracture, or rupture of a bloodvessel? In the first instance do they not act *contrarily* to the morbid symptoms of *mobility* by applying splints to the limb, in order to ensure to it the opposite state of *fixity* and rest? If an artery had been severed, would they not tie it up and oppose the hæmorrhage, according to the rule "*contraria*"? or would they take measures to increase it, according to "*similia*"? And thus Hahnemann himself violates his own principle on every page, for besides recommending "antidotes to several poisons; alkalies against mineral acids; liver of sulphur against metallic poisons; coffee, camphor and ipecacuanha against poison by opium," &c.,

he remarks, "in urgent and dangerous cases, or in diseases that have just broken out in persons who were previously in health, such as asphyxia by lightning, suffocation, freezing, drowning, &c., it is proper, in the first instance, at least, to reanimate the feeling and irritability by the aid of palliatives, such as slight electric shocks, injections of strong coffee, stimulating odors, warmth," &c.—thus acting *contrarily* to the morbid state by stimulants, and in the most direct manner, producing an opposite state, according to the rule "*contraria*." Rau, a somewhat celebrated homœopath, has honesty enough to confess this, for in his 59th proposition, he says, "The salutary effect obtained by means of *antipathic remedies*, in asphyxias, ought to encourage us to administer them in other analogous cases, in *preference to homœopathic remedies*, in order to provoke at first a re-action." But we have not space to dwell on this part of the subject; the reader can draw his own conclusions as to the honesty of the reverend compilers, one of whom, at least, was but lately employed in dealing out infinitesimal doses of theology, to a congregation of allopaths.

We are aware that we have devoted much more space to this starveling compilation than it deserves; the only merit it has, is that of showing that Jahr's "*Manual*" is a poor affair, and not to be depended upon. There is one remedy which we are somewhat surprised to find omitted by our Castor and Pollux, as it is one which they have the reputation of having employed in some cases of deficient animal heat—we mean "*cutis ovium*," vulgo *sheep skin*. In a case of paraplegia, which, by accident, fell under the treatment of our compilers, it was recommended, we are told, to purchase a *flock of sheep*, keep them in a yard adjacent to the sick man's house, and occasionally flay one of them alive, and wrap the extremities in the warm envelope. The prescription was followed, the sheep were procured, and thus the principle of "*similia*" carried out; for it appears to have been "*like*" all round. None can doubt of the application so far as the *prescribers* were concerned, and the patient must certainly have possessed similar *sheep-like* qualities to have submitted to the remedy.

SLEEPLESSNESS.—MR. GOURLAY'S CASE CONTINUED.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—You have heard of my sleeping two hours; and wish, for publication, a detail of circumstances, which I now furnish.

June 16, the British steamer being to sail, I was employed from daylight till noon, writing and despatching letters. Ten minutes past 12, the last was mailed. I then ran to a newspaper office, purchased the paper of that day, and mailed it also.

By this time the President of the United States was approaching; and I stood, in heavy rain, till the procession had passed the post office. After that, I was engaged with business till near two o'clock,—sometimes in, sometimes out of doors, and got drenched. Returning home, I put off my wet clothes, and went to dinner at half past 2 o'clock. About 3 I retired to my bed-room; sat down to read, having pulled off my coat

and boots, but, in a quarter of an hour, was overpowered with drowsiness; flung myself into bed, under the coverlid; immediately became warm; perspired; and, soon after, slept, soundly and certainly! Awakening, I deemed it, for a few minutes, morning; rejoiced that the weather looked propitious for the Bunker-hill celebration; but, feeling my clothes, became undeceived; started up; looked from my window to the Old South, and saw by the clock that it was half an hour past 5, P. M. In fact, I had been in the land of Nod, as near as may be, the time above named.

One of the newspapers, with the too customary practice of misrepresenting, reported that I had "*been caught napping*,"—but, this statement was immediately conveyed to my fellow boarders, and is perfectly correct. Some inquired if I felt refreshed; but no perceptible effect was produced; and the occurrence has, in no way, changed my long-established habit. I have not slept since; and, now, that the weather is hot, I have many restless and miserable nights.

"From short (as usual) and disturbed repose
I wake: how happy they, who wake no more!"

Marlboro' Hotel, July 15, 1843.

ROB. F. GOURLAY.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

JULY 19, 1843.

Diet at the House of Correction and House of Industry, Boston.—At the House of Correction, three days in each week, boiled fresh beef is allowed; three days, beef soup; one day, baked beef. About 150 lbs. beef, daily, for 300 prisoners; 6 bushels of potatoes, daily, for the same; 20 ounces bread for each prisoner, daily, made of the best flour, with a small portion of Indian meal. Molasses, tea and rye coffee are also used in considerable quantity; pepper, salt, &c. About one half the prisoners are females.

The official who furnished the above, informs us the rule is—that if any one wants more bread than the regular quantity allowed, it is given him. It is a part of an individual's punishment, for disobedience of orders, to be shortened in the allowance of food. The bread is of the very best quality. The beef, also, is of the best character—and, in fact, so is all the food provided in the institution.

All experience teaches that men can be easily governed when they are well fed. The hungry are prompted by the goadings of an empty stomach, to the worst acts in the history of our race. It is a sad mistake that the convicts in many of the penitentiaries of this country are kept at that exciting point of hunger which changes man into a devil in feeling and a brute in conduct.

At the House of Industry: Dinners—Sunday, boiled rice and molasses; Monday, beans, baked or stewed, and pork; Tuesday, beef and soup, vegetables, and white bread; Wednesday, baked beef, vegetables

and white bread ; Thursday, beef and soup, vegetables and white bread ; Friday, saltfish, vegetables and white bread ; Saturday, beef and soup, vegetables and white bread. Breakfasts, tea or coffee, and white bread. Suppers, chocolate and white bread. The diet of the sick is regulated by the medical attendants.

No rebellions are to be apprehended in the Boston Almshouse, like that which lately occurred in the poor house in Liverpool—because the appetite is satisfied. A story is abroad of an Irish pauper at South Boston, who wrote home, advising his relatives to come out to this establishment immediately, as they had "*meat twice a week.*" We regard the moral and dietetic regulations of the city's institutions for prisoners and paupers, as superior to those of all other cities or towns in the United States.

Publications of the Massachusetts Medical Society.—The following article is copied from the Daily Advertiser. The writer is believed to be correct in the matter, from the opportunities he seems to have enjoyed for knowing the particulars. We re-publish the article most cheerfully, for two good and substantial reasons, viz. : first, to correct an error ; and secondly, to diffuse the information it contains among medical readers—as many Fellows, in common with ourselves, have labored under the mistaken idea that some of the Society's re-prints had been seen in this country, and even found their way into both public and private libraries, before they were incorporated into the series to which this paper refers. We certainly have no ill will towards individuals, touching the subject, although somebody is evidently very much nettled, apparently supposing himself the embodiment of the whole Massachusetts Medical Society.

"Mr. Hale,—It has been the pleasure of the editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal repeatedly to speak disparagingly of the publications of the Massachusetts Medical Society ; with how much justice may be seen from the following statement. In his paper of July 5, speaking of that excellent practical work, 'Ashwell on Diseases peculiar to Females,' he says, 'One of the best recommendations of the Massachusetts Medical Library is that their books are well printed. The antiquity of the matter, or the manner in which most if not the whole thirteen volumes have been anticipated by enterprising publishers, has nothing to do with these remarks.'

"Of the thirteen volumes, ten are made up, eight wholly and two in part, of works not before printed in this country ; and four of these were original works, so far as publication in the English language is concerned. Another volume (besides the ten) had only been re-printed from an early English edition many years ago, while that in the 'Library' is from a late edition, carefully revised by the author, with much new matter, embodying the results of twenty years' additional experience ; thus giving it much of the character and value of a new work. Neither of the remaining four works (for the first two volumes of the Library contained each two separate treatises) had been extensively circulated in Massachusetts. So much for these publications being *anticipated*. As to the works themselves, if the value, to practical men, of such books as the writings of Abernethy, Pearson, Brodie, McKenzie, Louis, Copland, Collins, Green and Ashwell, is to be estimated by the style in which they are printed, then it will be difficult to say what medical book is to be esteemed for its intrinsic merits."

Acta Regia Societatis Medicæ Havnensis.—Dr. Otto, of Copenhagen, has politely forwarded the three last volumes of the transactions of this medical society, in the last of which is a catalogue of the honorary, corresponding and ordinary members, their residences and official relations. Only a few American names are to be found in this list of illustrious persons. Some of the articles evince enlarged views, and a minute acquaintance with the best remedies known to the best practitioners in all parts of the world. It is particularly unfortunate that so little is known of the Danish language, especially in this section of the Union, that the medical journals from that country are, to all intents and purposes, a sealed book. Occasionally a Danish sailor is to be met with, but he is wholly ignorant of the duties of a translator, and perhaps even the first rules of grammatical construction. Rich as may be the literature of Denmark, we are almost in utter ignorance of its present character or progress, with the single exception of the great work on the Anti-Columbian History of America, by the celebrated Professor Rafn—a monument to the fame of the antiquaries of the North, as enduring as the Latin in which it was in part composed. We have little or no acquaintance with the medical science of Denmark; and although Dr. Otto's *Journal, Bibliothek fur Læger*, is regularly transmitted, the articles, like some flowers, bloom unseen on this distant shore.

Editorial Annoyances.—If the conductors of newspapers and literary periodicals encounter as many difficulties in satisfying all their readers as a medical editor, they are to be commiserated. We receive many hints in a year of the course that would please the public, increase our patronage, and answer the just expectations of the medical community. If we would only meekly submit to the dictation of an experienced friend, who knows just what the age requires, there would be a heaven upon earth, so far as he was concerned. But by carefully watching the phases of the times, we have discovered that these kind advisers, anonymous critics, assassin paragraph-makers, and nameless letter writers, have their faults also, and their weak points, too—such as a predominant self-esteem, self-interest, and an inkling to meddle with the affairs of others, to the neglect, frequently, of their own. Under all these circumstances, we feel justified, for the present, in doing as well as we can on our own responsibility.

Secret Medicines.—One of the fundamental laws of the Massachusetts Medical Society, is that no one belonging to the association shall prescribe secret remedies, or, in other words, countenance nostrums, under any pretext whatever.

An intelligent fellow of the Society suggests that there are some who have been admitted into fellowship, who openly violate this regulation. It is but little more than a year since Dr. Starkweather was arraigned for a misdemeanor of that sort, which was viewed with surprise, and the case finally disposed of very much as the transgressor had reason to expect. Now if it is the fact that any members are thus openly placing this regulation at defiance, on which the character and respectability of the Society very much depends, it is charitable to suggest that they are ignorant of the law, and whenever apprised of the line of duty, will cheerfully follow it.

A Remedy for all Diseases.—A silly book is extensively circulated in New England, bearing this title, viz.: "*The use of Brandy and Salt, as a remedy for various internal as well as external diseases, inflammation and local injuries; containing ample directions for making and applying it—explained by the Rev. Samuel Fenton, M.D., of Liverpool,*" &c. In the manner of all new specifics, however, this cures too many maladies. It is like a nursery-maid's breath—blowing either hot or cold, according to circumstances. The author must have felt himself to be a knave when he wrote this precautionary paragraph for the guidance of his disciples—"To insure success, it is absolutely necessary, that, during its application, whether internally or externally, the patient should strictly abstain from all stimulating drinks, except the brandy and salt"! Of all devices for making drunkards, this brandy scheme will prove to be as direct as any known to dram sellers. If the Washingtonians are not vigilant, salt—a very little in considerable brandy—will become a popular medicine for quieting the morbid cravings of stomachs already injured by stimulating potations.

The book appeals at once to the limited understandings of those who are always ready to dose, whether necessary or not. This salt and brandy cures, positively, if the Rev. Dr. Samuel Fenton is to be believed, "bites of mad dogs, erysipelas, tic douloureux, scrofula, scurvy, itch, ring worm, paralytic attacks, inflammation of the eyes, inflammation of the brain, deafness, intermitting fevers, cholera, rheumatism, gout, gravel, burns, insanity, cancers, worms, consumptions, asthma, dysentery, sprains, plague, cuts, abscesses, lumbago, liver complaints and affections of the heart, yellow fever, gall-stones, indigestion, spinal complaints, indurated tumors, piles, cholera morbus," &c. &c. The Rev. author expressly says, "that pregnant women ought to take one table spoonful, diluted with hot water, once a week or fortnight, but not oftener, during their pregnancy. It renders the child more healthy, and the delivery is effected with greater ease"! Yet it is so exactly adapted to the minds of a certain class of men and women, who forsooth imagine themselves as wise as serpents, that a prodigious deal of mischief is already being done by this paltry publication. What can be done to circumscribe its base influence? If active measures were adopted, the cry would be that the physicians are monopolists, and ten would be sold where one is now. That there are persons weak enough to be influenced by such a catch-penny publication, in the city of Boston, is extremely mortifying, although it is true there is a host of them.

Franklin Medical College.—Much to the astonishment of those who already cry out loudly against the multitude of medical schools in the United States, another, bearing the above name, has sprung into being in the town of St. Charles, Illinois. Geo. W. Richards, M.D., is the Professor of Anatomy and Physiology; John Thomas, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy; John De Lamater, M.D., Professor of Surgery; Ed. Mead, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Pathological Anatomy; Nicholas Hard, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics, Diseases of Women and Children, and Medical Jurisprudence; Samuel Denton, M.D., Professor of Theory and Practice. Eighteen physicians constitute a board of curators, says Dr. Lawson's Journal, who have the privilege of being present at examinations, and, with the faculty, have power to pass

judgment upon the qualifications of the candidates. Medical education is now a cheap affair:—scores in the practice of physic and surgery, would have been successful farmers and artisans, who are miserable practitioners—suffering from neglect, ill success and mortification. They wonder how it happens that they are not as thrifty as some of their rivals. The fact is, the community has discovered the secret that they possess neither genius, tact or education for the place they vainly struggle to maintain in society.

New London Medical Society.—In 1793 an association was formed bearing this title, which flourishes to the present moment, with undiminished vigor. A pamphlet containing the by-laws has made its appearance recently, which is one of the neatest and most convenient pocket memoranda of the medical things of a whole county, we have seen for a long time. The following is a list of minimum fees, established by the physicians of Norwich (Ct.), above the county rate:—

Advice, verbal, 50 cts.; ordinary visit, 75; visit in the night, \$1,50; consultation, \$1,50; succeeding visit in consultation, \$1,00; introducing catheter, first time, in male, \$1,50; do. do., in female, \$1,00; each succeeding time, \$1,00; simple fracture of leg or arm, \$5,00; do. of the thigh, \$10,00; dislocation of the shoulder, knee, or ankle, \$5,00; do. of any of the smaller joints, \$3,00; amputation of finger or toe, \$5,00; do. of the breast, \$30,00; extirpating polypus from the nose, \$5,00; paracentesis abdominis, \$10,00; operation for hydrocele, \$10,00; do. for hernia, \$30,00; do. for fistula perineo, \$12,00; do. for lachrymalis, \$10,00; Obstetric case, common, \$5,00; labor, with instruments, \$10,00; vaccination, \$1,00; ride per mile, over two miles, 25 cts.; bleeding at office, 50 cts.; visit and bleeding, \$1,00; extracting tooth at office, 50 cts.; visit and extracting tooth, \$1,00.

Syrup of Sarsaparilla.—We have several times called the attention of our readers to the concentrated syrup of sarsaparilla manufactured under the direction of Dr. Corbett, of Shaker Village, N. H. An advertisement will be found in its proper place, in the Journal of to-day, containing a more particular notice of the article, with recommendations from those who have made long and thorough trial of it. Those who have not yet made use of this particular form of a valuable medicinal agent, will do well, at least, to prove its virtues; and they can now find it at most of the druggists through the country.

Successful Case of Lithotomy.—In the Sangamo Journal, published at Springfield, Illinois, the following account is given of an operation for the stone, at Hillsboro', on the 19th ult. by Wm. D. Herrick, M.D., on a boy between three and four years old. He extracted from the bladder of the little sufferer, a stone measuring nearly four inches in circumference *lengthwise*, and near two inches in circumference across, being a shape similar to the thumb of a large man. Perhaps no operation of the kind was ever performed with more satisfactory results—not a tablespoonful of blood was lost in the operation—and now, after several days, the patient presents the most flattering prospects of a speedy recovery.

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Chamberlin, of Cincinnati, has invented an instrument for the excision of the tonsils, that is well spoken of. The cutting blade is projected from the operator—and the knife, instead of being circular, is lancet shaped.—An excellent article appeared in the June No. of the *Western Lancet*, on the *legal accountability of medical and surgical practitioners*.—The next medical convention in Ohio is to be held at Mt. Vernon, on the fourth Tuesday of May, 1844.—A cancer doctor in France, Beauvoisin, who professed to cure, without the knife, has been condemned to two years' imprisonment and a fine of forty dollars, as guilty of obtaining money under false pretences.—About seventy students attended medical lectures at Hampden Sidney College, Richmond, Virg., last year.—Messrs. Lea & Blanchard have published "Surgical Operations performed under the influence of Mesmerism, by Dr. Elliotson, of London."—A treatise on the diseases of children, by D. F. Condie, M.D., and a Medical Formulary, by Dr. Carson, of Philadelphia, are in a state of preparation for publication.—In 1838, the illegitimate births in Munich exceeded the legitimate by 270! In the city of Vienna, in 1836, the legitimate births were 1 in 2.24.—In Austria there is a police to inspect all the food offered for sale. They have also, according to Wilde, the power to inspect houses, lodgings, &c., to ascertain whether they are in good condition; and they likewise prevent quacks and unlicensed venders of medicines from itinerating through the country.—A child died in Rochester, N. Y., in consequence of eating the ends of phosphorus matches. When examined the next day, smoke escaped from the bowels—an evidence of combustion having been maintained there a short time, at least.—French bean leaves applied to corns, on retiring to bed, followed up for a week or two, are said to be wonderfully efficacious.—Dr. John M'Kelway has been removed from the office of post master at Trenton, N. J.—Small-pox has appeared at North White Creek, N. Y., causing, very naturally, considerable alarm.—Yellow fever has been developed at Merida, Yucatan, according to the latest intelligence.—Dr. Boardman, of Hartford, died on the 25th ult., in consequence of taking creosote into his mouth for the cure of toothache.—Low fever, influenza and colds, are very prevalent, particularly the first disease, in Glasgow, at present.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Dr. Slack's paper on the Spleen, and Dr. Thurston's case of Strangled Intestine, will be inserted next week.

MARRIED.—In Forestville, N. Y., Gilbert W. Hazeltine, M.D., of Jamestown, to Miss Eliza C. Boss, of the former place.—At Hartford, Conn., Edward D. Babcock, M.D., of New Britain, to Miss Julia Spencer.

DIED.—At Geneva, N. Y., Edward Cutbush, M.D., for many years chief surgeon in the U. S. N.—At Sandwich, U. C., Dr. John Hyde, accidentally drowned by the upsetting of a skiff. He was greatly respected, and his untimely loss exceedingly deplored.—At New Haven, Conn., Dr. Josiah F. Hunt, 43.

Number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending July 15, 34.—Males, 18.—Females, 16. Stillborn, 5. Of consumption, 1—infantile, 1—marasmus, 1—teething, 2—apoplexy, 1—cholera infantum, 1—fits, 3—old age, 4—cancer, 1—dropsy on the brain, 3—hooping cough, 1—disease of the spine, 1—scarlet fever, 2—dropsy in the head, 1—lung fever, 2—influenza, 1—intemperance, 1—croup, 1—child-bed, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—poison, 1—smallpox, 1.
Under 5 years, 19—between 5 and 20 years, 3—between 20 and 60 years, 7—over 60 years, 5.

On the Removal of Calculi from the Bladder of the Horse. By Mr. MOGFORD, V. S.—My attention has been arrested by an article in your number for January on lithotomy; a few observations on which, as they are the result of my own experience, will not, I am sure, give offence to that justly respected operator, Mr. Field. I cannot forbear from again expressing my surprise that, in operations of this kind, veterinary surgeons do not make use of the means so peculiarly accessible to them, viz. inverting the bladder through the rectum. Mr. Percivall has very kindly noticed my mode of operation in the third volume of his Lectures and the second of his Pathology.

I first extracted a stone from the bladder in this way in the year 1820, and the case was published by Mr. White in 1824. No operation could be more simple or less exposed to dangerous consequences. There was no inflammatory symptom whatever, and the horse was soon after hunted. In fact, all that is required is a scapula and a probe-pointed bistoury, for the arteries are easily avoided without any guide.

In proof of my assertion I may state that I have more than once introduced a stone into the bladder, and extracted it in the same way.

About two years ago I introduced, by way of experiment, an egg into the bladder of a mare, and extracted it again whilst she was in a standing position. As this was done in a private manner, I thought it advisable to have witnesses. I therefore introduced the egg into the bladder again, and left it there until the following morning, when I found that the bladder was full to bursting, as the mare was afraid to stale.

At my request, three medical gentlemen of this island kindly accompanied me the next morning to witness the operation; but being puzzled by the fulness of the bladder, and having no catheter at hand, I introduced, as a substitute, the nose of a bellows, which answered the purpose pretty well, although the large quantity of water in the bladder retarded the operation. Notwithstanding this, however, the operation was performed within a minute, and without breaking the egg, although the shell had been considerably softened by the action of the acid of the urine. In order to put the whole matter beyond a doubt to the spectators, I again introduced the egg. The mare was then killed, the bladder taken out, and shown to them with the egg in it.

There is some degree of tact required in the operation, the want of which has probably, on many occasions, prevented its adoption. When the arm is first introduced into the rectum, the animal forces against it in order to expel it; the arm must remain quiet, until the struggles have ceased, when the operator may proceed without difficulty. If the finger should not be sufficiently long to reach the neck of the bladder from the opening, the latter may be pushed towards the finger from the rectum.—*Veterinarian.*

Treatment of Vascular Nævus.—Prof. N. R. Smith, of Baltimore, has devised the following method of treating vascular nævus. He saturates a thread with a saturated solution of caustic potash. This is dried by a fire, and a needle being armed with it, the base of the tumor is transfixed with the needle, and the thread quietly drawn through the part. This is repeated in different parts of the tumor. Dr. S. states that he has now under care a case treated by this plan, and the tumor is rapidly wasting, without any distressing symptoms having occurred.—*Maryland Med. & Sur. Jour.*